

CALIFORNIA GARDEN



...In This Number...

Berry Producing Shrubs for Garden and Park Planting
By John G. Morley

Orchids in the Gardens of Southern California . By P. D. Barnhart
Kentia Palms By K. O. Sessions

JANUARY 1933

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No. 7

Berry Producing Shrubs for Garden and Park Planting

By JOHN G. MORLEY

Shrubs that produce berries are very decorative to plants in our gardens and parks. I believe that they are all hardy in this climate.

The largest family is the Crataegus or Hawthorns, as they are commonly called, and are natives of Europe, America and Asia — the largest number are native to the northern and eastern sections of the United States, of which there are over 600 known varieties, compared with 60 varieties in Europe. Many of them are small trees in their native habitat, however those grown in California are either shrubs or grown as such. They generally bloom in May or June and in the fall are covered with their seeds which resemble a berry, although botanically, they are classed as pomes with structure similar to an apple. The color of fruits is chiefly red or orange.

Hawthorns are fine for hedges as well as for shrubs in the garden. Only a very few varieties are grown in California, the best of which is Crataegus Lalandi, which at this season of the year is covered with orange-colored berries, producing a charming effect. It grows tall and scraggly, but is very decorative. It may be pruned severely to keep it dwarf and compact for planting in low shrubbery borders, when it produces large crops of berries that are very effective.

Crataegus Carrierei is a garden hybrid of French origin, with berries similar to the preceding variety. It is a small tree. In California it is grown only as a shrub and has proved very satisfactory wherever utilized.

Crataegus Crenulata is a very fine variety, producing each season a large crop of light red berries, and is more extensively planted than any other variety.

Crataegus Yunanensis is a hybrid variety from Crataegus Crenulata, introduced by Vit-

morin of France. It is a very strong growing shrub and has fruit of bright coral red.

Crataegus Pyracantha is a red-berried hawthorn. The fruit ripens earlier than any other variety we grow, and as soon as ripe, the birds quickly denude it. This variety is effective grown as a small tree, or as a shrub, and it is very useful for hedges.

Crataegus Kanonensis is a very fine variety, with small leaves and a dense, bushy shrub. The fruit is a brilliant red. The plants that are growing in Balboa Park have not produced fruit,—they are from seed I gathered in New Orleans two years ago.

A sample of a very bright red variety is exhibited here this evening,—grown from seed given me by Mr. Herbert George several years ago, at the Beverly Hills Nursery. It is a strong growing variety and is a beautiful shrub.

Cotoneasters are shrubs native of the temperate regions of Asia, Europe and Northern Africa, and at this season of the year, are very beautiful with their large crops of berries or pomes similar to the hawthorns. There are several dwarf or trailing varieties which are extensively used for planting in rockeries or on the edges of walls. The two most popular varieties are Microphylla and Horizontalis, and are covered with small red fruits in the fall. They are very pretty throughout the year as the minute foliage gives them a characteristic and charming effect which no other trailing plant possesses. They thrive luxuriantly in California and deserve to be planted extensively.

Cotoneaster Simonsii is a red-fruited variety and is very extensively used in the northern sections of the state. It thrives well in Southern California, although not so popular as some other varieties.

Cotoneaster Acuminata is an erect growing variety, with small, light green foliage and the

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

main branches along the stem are covered with bright red berries. This variety is almost unknown in our gardens, but can highly recommend it, having grown it for 20 years.

Cotoneaster Franchetti is a very pleasing variety and one of the best to plant. The foliage is of a yellowish white, and tomentose beneath,—upright growth with spreading branches and covered at this season with orange red berries.

Cotoneaster Panosa has been more extensively planted in this vicinity than any other variety. It is a beautiful erect growing shrub, with spreading branches and covered at this season of the year with immense quantities of red berries. The cut branches covered with berries are very decorative for the house, especially in the holiday season.

Cotoneaster Agustifolia,—this variety more closely resembles the hawthorn than any other,—it is frequently called *Crataegus Augustifolia*. It has large thorns,—the fruit is an orange-yellow and hangs on the bushes from early fall to late spring.

Cotoneaster Dulsiana, (variety elegans) a native of western China,—has berries of a coral red,—spreading and arching branches,—a very fine shrub for our gardens.

Cotoneaster Herbsti,—a strong, low-growing and spreading variety. The plants growing in Balboa Park are from seed I gathered at Orleans, in France, on my visit there in 1924.

There are new varieties continually being added to California gardens,—nearly all of which are from China, and from reports received, they will be fine additions to our gardens.

Heteromeles Arbutifolia (California Holly) is one of the most beautiful native shrubs of California, and called the "Christmas berry." This popular native shrub with its red berries at the holiday season deserves a place in every garden. Years ago, the hills and canyons in the state were literally covered with these fine shrubs,—today, in many localities, they have disappeared owing to the destruction by irresponsible parties breaking them down to procure berries during the Christmas holidays. Thanks to our legislature, we now have a law on the statute books that will curtail to some extent these depredations. More of these beautiful shrubs should be planted in our parks and gardens.

It is pleasing to note that the English holly is being acclimatized and grown more extensively in Southern California, and as the bushes mature, we will undoubtedly have these beautiful berried shrubs in our gardens as they have

in the coast regions to the north. A new variety has been introduced recently that is fruiting in Beverly Hills and Hollywood.

Snowberry (*Symporicarpus*), several varieties of which are native to the Pacific Coast and Arizona, are very pretty native shrubs, producing white berries, and would be a charming addition to our gardens.

Viburnum Toomentosum (Snowball) is very beautiful in the eastern states in the fall, with its bronzy brown foliage and shiny red berries. I often think at this season of the year of the large groups of this variety I have seen in Franklin Park, Boston,—covered with these beautiful berries, and wish that we might have the same success with them in San Diego.

Loniceras (Honeysuckles), the shrubby deciduous varieties produce very pretty berries in the early fall. They have not, for some reason, been utilized in this section. Twenty-five years ago I made an extensive planting in the Los Angeles parks,—the only variety that fruited was the *Lonicera Morrowi*,—though not as luxuriantly as in the eastern states.

Arbutus Unedo,—a tree or shrub native of Ireland and Southern Europe,—and is commonly called the Strawberry tree. In California it is grown as a shrub and is very popular both for the pretty white flowers and also the fruit, which is round, and when ripe, the color of a strawberry, hence the name. The fruit is rough and warty, and about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, hangs in bunches of three to seven fruits, and the fruit is very good to eat when fully ripe.

Manzanita, a beautiful shrub or small tree, native of the mountains of California. It has pretty panicles of whitish flowers in the spring, succeeded by bunches of fruit resembling grapes, but more commonly called Manzanita berries. The fruit is edible and makes delicious preserves.

Duranta Plumeri,—a small tree or shrub, native of the West Indies and from Mexico to Brazil. This shrub has been extensively grown in Southern California. It is of rapid growth and useful for large mass plantings,—blooms continuously throughout the year in panicled loose racemes, succeeded by bunches of yellow berries which hang on the branches for an extended period and are very decorative, as the shrub will be in bloom with its pretty blue flowers and a crop of berries at the same time. It will not stand much frost. There is a white flowering type that is also very pretty, and is known as the *Duranta Plumeria Alba*.

There are many other shrubs that produce berries during the year, but are not so popular

as those described, however, as our floriculture develops, we shall have other interesting species added for the beautification of our gardens.

Eugenias. The Eugenias are one of our finest small trees,—they may be trimmed to formal shape, used as shrubs and also as hedges. They produce fruit in small bunches in red and rose color and somewhat resembling a berry,—the fruit is edible and used for jellies and jams. The varieties planted in California are the *Eugenia Myrtifolia*, *E. Hookeriana*, *E. Jambos*, and *E. Uniflora*. The two most popular varieties in this vicinity are the *E. Myrtifolia* and *E. Hookeriana*.

Raphiolepis are low-growing shrubs and from Japan and China. They are classed as one of the best garden shrubs to plant in California. In the spring they are covered with white fragrant flowers, succeeded by their black colored berries or seed pods on the Raphiolepis Ovata, and pink flowers on the Raphiolepis Indica. They are one of the best shrubs for planting along the seashore.

Nadina Domestica,—a very pretty shrub, a native of Japan and is a favorite wherever it is grown. The terminal trusses of white flowers are very distinctive and in the fall produces a very pretty red berry that is very effective. Taken together with the beautiful foliage, flowers and fruit, it is one of the finest of garden plants.

Mahonia aquifolium (*Berbis aquifolium*), native of the Pacific Coast from California to British Columbia. A very fine shrub, dark green foliage when fully developed. In its young state the foliage is bright red, and in the fall the bush is covered with small, blue berries.

Mahonia Japonica (*Berberis Japonica*), an Asiatic variety, thrives well on the Pacific Coast. Fruits are bluish black. Somewhat larger than the preceding variety. Foliage more or less spiny.

ORCHIDS: IN THE GARDENS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By P. D. Barnhart

This Southland is yet in its infantile stage of development in the Art of Gardening. Its possibilities not yet dreamed of; its development only begun. When it has grown to full stature of manhood and womanhood, the world will admire its beauty, and worship at its shrine. Because climatic conditions are congenial, and favorable to the growth of Exotic plants, there is a greater variety of them grown within our borders than any other section of the world, in which it has been the privilege of this writer to roam. Pioneers who had courage in their hearts, and were filled with the spirit of adventure, blazed a trail through the wilderness of doubt and uncertainty as to what could be done in a garden located in a land with a climate of unparalleled excellence. The venture required courage, and cash, with a disposition to work, regardless of failures, which, as a rule, are stimulants to thought, and a quickening of a desire to study cause and effect. It may be profitable, certainly it will be interesting to call the roll of the Pioneers who paved the way which has led us into the knowledge we have, and the progress that has been made in the Art of Gardening during the past two score years. Thomas R. Bard of Hueneme. Miss Kate Sessions of San Diego. Dr. Franceschi of Santa Barbara. Frank J. Hart of Sierra Madre. Arthur Letts of Hollywood. William Hertrich of El Molino. Hugh Evans of Santa Monica. Stephen Vavra of Bell-Air, and Mrs. Helen Hill Wernigk of Brentwood Heights. All of them enthusiasts who, for the love of the Garden and of plant life, gave liberally of their time, their talents and their money, in full measure of devotion to satisfy their love of the beautiful, as well as to adorn the bosom of Mother Earth, in this part of the heritage of the children of men. Bard, Franceschi, Hart, and Letts have gone to their reward, to spend eternity in Elysian Gardens of Glory.

A brief biography of each one of these worthies would fill an issue of this Journal. Let us indulge the hope that someone with vision, patience, and the ability will appear to write such a biography, that their names perish not from the annals of history.

Now let us study the theme of this article—Orchids! the pride of the bride when they are found in her bouquet; the hope of the lover to please his Desdemona when they may be had.

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J. F. Martley, M.Sc., A.R.C.S.
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—that is the inspiration of this article. They will not live outdoors in our dry climate and frosty nights. It is of the Terrestrial species with which we are concerned at this time. Cymbidiums, because the most spectacular; Epidendrums, which are in bloom every day of the year, and *Bletia hyacinthina*, the herbaceous species. All of them have been growing in gardens of this Southland for several years, but it is only in recent years that we have learned how to grow Cymbidiums in the open, even to a greater degree of perfection than when grown under glass, and this is how it came about. Four years ago this writer was the guest of Thomas Young, Bound Brook, N. J., who has the largest area in this country devoted exclusively to the production of Cattleya flowers. During the conversation, I remarked that Epidendrums luxuriate in our gardens. He was astonished and said: "If that be true, then Cymbidiums will also grow in your garden. If I give you a plan or two will you try?" You men, readers of these lines, do you remember the blissful experience when your sweetheart smiled on you for the first time? Such were the sensations that swept over my soul when Tom Young made me that offer. In due time the plants—three of them—arrived, transportation charges prepaid. The catalog price of plants their size was then, is now \$45. When Tom Young sent those plants to the Wernigk Botanic Garden, he set in motion a wave of Cymbidium culture, which will overflow and enrich all our gardens.

It is said that where ignorance is bliss, it is folly to be wise. There is more truth than poetry in that proverb, as the sequel of this story will show.

Never before having had any experience with that class of Orchids out doors, the question was "how to plant them." Undaunted, we dug a hole three feet square in a part of the garden exposed to full sun. Into the hole was tramped leaves, and spent annuals to within a foot of the top. On this bed was placed rich garden soil, into which the plants were set. They made a luxuriant growth, and about Oct. first three flower buds appeared. Here is the remarkable part about the development of those flower stems. Slowly, surely they grew during the winter months which were cold. At times ice an inch thick was in bird baths close by. No mother ever watched over her babe with greater

solicitude than was bestowed on that clump of Cymbidiums. No protection of any kind was given them. By April those spikes were three feet tall, two of them with 30 buds each, the other with 20 buds. In a month they opened, and the flowers were placed just far enough apart to show their individuality, therefore; Artistic, as is the work of the Master Artist. As every well informed Florist knows, flowers grown in the open are of a richer color than when grown under glass. They were superior in size, substance, and color to any glass house grown flower of their kind. While in bud, black aphis had to be contended with. No rain after the flowers opened, and no water applied to them artificially, they remained beautiful for six weeks.

This same species of Orchid had been growing on a Rockery in the Huntington Garden, and Walter Armacost was so well pleased with the trial in the Wernigk Garden that he moved a lot of his plants outdoors on to a rockery. I now know that it is a mistake to grow this plant in that manner. Down on the ground in a well drained bed, with vegetable mould for the roots to revel in, and a feed during the summer time of liquid food will give the finest flowers.

If this story will fire the imagination, and create a desire in the mind of a reader to grow this plant, the time consumed in the writing of it will not have been spent in vain. Remember, a four bulb plant will cost about \$15, for the reason that it takes about seven years to produce one that size.

And now about Epidendrums. Never have I seen as fine flowers grown under glass as those grown in the open. Moreover they are in bloom every day of the year, and as easily propagated as a willow. To do their best they must have water and fertilizer in abundance.

Of the beauty of *Bletia* what shall be said? It is an herbaceous species and reproduces itself by rhizomes. Blue and rose colored, it is fine for cutting.

With the knowledge of Orchid culture acquired in the Wernigk garden during the last four years, next year an attempt will be made with *Dendrobiums*, and *Cypripediums* of the *Insigne* section of the Tribe. It is a native of Nepal, of the Himalyan Mts. of India. No use to waste time with the Atlantic coast species. They will not lend themselves to cultivation in this part of this coast.

KENTIA PALMS

By K. O. SESSIONS.

There are enough good-sized Kentia Fosteriana palms about San Diego for the public to realize their beauty and value. Without question they are the choicest tall grower for the garden in the full sun. The slowness of growth for the first four years is the one objection to home gardeners who are impatient for immediate results.

In past years, the price has been rather high. Now a thrifty plant two to two and a half feet high in a gal. can will sell for fifty to seventy-five cents; one three feet or over for a dollar.

It is a palm that never shows a disfigured or broken leaf, except possibly a little browning at the tips, and the leaf is long, flat and spreading in contrast to the fringed, plume-like leaf of the *Cocos plumosa*. Its common name is the Thatch Palm, from its use in the tropics.

Moreover, San Diego's mild winter climate and her cool summers make it possible for the Kenia to flourish here, while in Los Angeles, City and County, it is often too cold and the summer sun burns the leaf excepting in a few special localities. Santa Barbara has a few good specimens but that favorable location is not as good as San Diego.

It is a native of Lord Howe's Island in the Pacific Ocean and, therefore, will flourish in a coastal situation. With age its trunk is tall and very slender, less than six inches in diameter, often close to four inches, and its beautiful crown of leaves above the tall, slender trunk gives it a most decorative value. The fact that it is a slower grower than the *Cocos Plumosa* is an asset for the home garden rather than an objection. If a *cocos* would not grow beyond 15 to 20 feet it would be of more value.

Kentia Belmoreana is a very similar palm to the *Fosteriana*, but its leaves are more curly or bending; it is more delicate in general and it succeeds only in great shelter and considerable shade, as in a northeast corner protected by the house. Its growth is half that of the *Fosteriana*. It is excellent for a large lath house and is particularly choice for a potted house palm.

Both of these Kentias are the universal house palm of the United States and Europe. When planted in the open here, they should be set out in the spring as the warmer weather is coming on and never in the fall.

Several fine old specimens are along Fourth Ave., above Walnut. A superior pair at the S.W. Cor. Second & Spruce St. Another pair on

Sixth Ave. Cor. Penn., opposite the Episcopal church. The oldest plant and the sample that was a model is in the Coronado Court.. A fine specimen at N.E. Cor. 25th & C Sts. and many others about the city. Old plants in the city are furnishing good seed.

LINARIA DALMATICA

The Dalmatian Toadflax is a plant that I have never had in sufficient plenty for a large patch, nor have I ever been blessed with enough garden space to devote to the purpose even had I the plants. Consequently I have grown it and can only write of it as represented by scattered specimens. It is like a tall and slender butter-and-eggs of perennial habit, all in a clear deep self yellow. The characteristic snap-dragonish flowers are furnished with conspicuous long sharp spurs, so that they are quite grotesque in outline even for a *Linaria*. Cut off the old ones at the summit, and the same stem will usually send out branches below the amputation and bloom again. When the yellowing of the whole indicates its final exhaustion, it may be cut away or pulled out entirely, whereupon new shoots will likely arise from the root to take its place and so continue as long as the season lasts. This habit of repetitive blooming becomes a most desirable trait if you have a corner where you like to see a splash of bright yellow continue as an accent as long as possible, or if you like to depend on an odd spray or two of this color to add to the bouquets used in some particular precinct of the house. As the stems rise to two or three feet they are admittedly somewhat gawky if too much by themselves, especially as the foliage is none too plentiful. Such as they are, the small leaves are neat in form and an attractive gray-green in color, and the young rosettes have a fresh picturesqueness of their own.

The plant has a habit of increasing by long underground runners which may push to a distance of several feet and pop up in all kinds of unexpected places. They are never really weedy, but sometimes are capable of causing embarrassment if they chance to come up in the center of some rare and treasured tuffet which you are trying to avoid disturbing. It is a wise anticipation of possible trouble to keep the *Linaria* quite away from all and sundry precious and delicate subjects. It transplants with the utmost ease and succeeds with apparent indifference in almost any soil or exposure and in either sun or partial shade.

S. STILLMAN BERRY.

Redlands, California.

The California Garden

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

The new year brought us "Western Wild Flowers and their Stories" by Charles Francis & Company. It would be an insanity for us to offer to the readers of the "California Garden" an introduction to the author, not only because of his many valuable contributions to western horticultural literature but by reason of his keenly appreciated offerings to the columns of this magazine. To the meticulous student or the veritable tyro of western floriculture this book is at once valuable and eminently readable. It is the story of the coming of civilization to western United States revealed through the medium of flowers. Mission padres, explorers, soldiers and surveyors all pass in review. That it is the result of many tedious hours of research is apparent and this combined with the

evident first-hand knowledge and experience of the author has resulted in a book that approaches the seeming impossible. A common ground on which botanist and amateur gardener meet with intelligible, interesting and valuable information for each. Both colloquial and specific botanical names are given of the subjects used. The last two words of the title should be emphasized for it is the stories, both mythological and actual, of these western flowers that make the book what it is. It is replete with fine photographic illustrations. Copies are offered by the publishers at \$3.00.

DECEMBER MEETING

The Christmas meeting of the San Diego Floral Association is always a cheerful occasion and full of the real spirit of the season. Elsewhere in this magazine are printed the two excellent speeches, one on insect control, by County Horticultural Commissioner R. R. McLean, and "Berried Shrubs of San Diego Public Parks," by Superintendent John Morley. Comment is superfluous save to acknowledge the debt of the Association to the speakers who presented such interesting subjects in such an able manner.

The rooms were attractively decorated with branches of cedrus deodorus and the sprays of berried shrubs which lent color and at the same time illustrated Mr. Morley's talk. Christmas wreaths of holly-leaved cherry, cypress and toyon graced the rooms. These latter were donated by members of the Association and sold at the close of the meeting, thus enabling the committee to meet current expenses in connection with the Aloe and Agave garden.

Nearly 100 potted plants surrounded the living Christmas tree, in gay wrappings, donated by nurseries and individuals, and each person attending received one as a Christmas gift.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mrs. Mary A. Greer. Then the rooms were darkened and a group of girls with red capes and carrying lighted candles entered the auditorium singing carols. The words "Deck the halls with wreaths of holly" appropriately described the beautiful holiday setting.

Following the addresses there were appropriate remarks by Miss Kate Sessions. Mr. Jerabek displayed berried shrubs as a supplement to Mr. Morley's talk.

After adjournment the guests stayed to admire the shadow box effects and enjoy the coffee and home-made cookies provided by the Misses Schwieder and Miss Alice Greer. C.B.T.

MIDWINTER FLOWER SHOW

Garden lovers will be glad to know that the Midwinter Flower Show will be held as usual at Encinitas this winter. The large tent will be placed on the main highway in the center of town. The dates are February 9th to 12th inclusive.

In spite of hard times, the leading exhibitors of last year have already secured space and the show this year promises to set a new high standard for exhibits of this character.

FRED A. WYLIE.

JANUARY WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

January is usually the coldest month in San Diego county, and the lowest temperatures of the season may be expected. The only time when the thermometer has dropped below the freezing point at the Weather Bureau station in the city was on January 6 and 7, 1913, when 28 degrees and 25 degrees respectively, were recorded during a cold wave that embraced all far western districts. Firing is sometimes necessary in the citrus and avocado zones, especially in the groves located on the floors of the valleys, but on the hillsides and mesas the danger point is seldom reached. In spite of its relative coldness, maximum temperatures above 70 degrees frequently occur, and day after day of mild and pleasant weather prevails.

The average number of days with rain is six, and the average precipitation in the city is 1.86 inches. Rainfall is much heavier in the mountains, and some years the higher elevations are covered with snow the entire month. With the rain, strong blustery winds can be expected, lasting for several days at a time. However, except at these times the wind velocity is light and averages only 6 miles per hour.

The sun shines 67 per cent of the time possible, and 15 clear, 8 partly cloudy and 8 cloudy days are the average. Rarely is there a completely overcast day from sunrise to sunset, and the clear air and high visibility are marked features. Fog is infrequent and the relative humidity is quite low, 70 per cent. On the whole, the month is characterized by cool, bracing, quiet days, conducive to out-of-door activities.

AUTUMN COLORS

To the majority of the residents of this south coast country, Autumn Colors are pleasant memories of the days of the years when life was young, and the heart was light, and we strolled through woods of Maple, of Oak, of Gum *Nyssa sylvatica*, and of Dogwood, care-free and happy, dancing with delight while the multicolored leaves were showered upon our heads. Happy days were those days, days we never shall forget. Bliss Carman puts the thought I have in mind at this time when he says:

"There is something in the Autumn that
is native to my blood—
Touch of manner, hint of mood;
And my heart is like a rime,
With the yellow, and the purple, and the
crimson keeping time."

Only in recent years did I learn that frost is not necessary to work its magic of coloring autumn leaves. During a trip through the New England States two years ago the south side of hills and mountains were swathed in garments crimson and gold, yet not a frost up to that time. Oh! how we long for the scenes of childhood and in vain attempts, grow tree and shrub that we may again feast our eyes on the glory of Autumn Colors. The nearest approach we come to satisfying that desire, we plant Sweet Gum—*Liquidamber Styraciflua*—Virginia Creeper—*Ampelopsis quinfolia*, both native of the Atlantic coast. Then we go to Syria and bring Pistachia vera for its crimson colored leaves, and to Queensland, Australia, for its Poplar: *Homalanthus populifolius*—for its scarlet and golden colored foliage. The two first-named must be treated like babies if they are to show their colors. The two last named are drought resistant and will thrive on a minimum amount of water. Beloved, let us be content with the flaming Bracts of the Poinsettia, the brilliant magenta colored Bracts of Bougainvillea, both of which are the envy of the stranger who enters the Gates of our Gardens.

P. D. B.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The world-renowned and popular horticulturalist, Peter Barnhart, will be the guest speaker for the San Diego Floral Association, Tuesday, January 17th, at 7:30 in the club-rooms in Balboa Park.

Mr. Barnhart will speak on "Rare and Interesting Plants" and will bring a collection of specimens from the Weneke Gardens.

All members of the organization anticipate a rare treat.

TO ENSENADA AND RETURN

By C. I. Jerabek

One bright Sunday morning Dewey Kelley and I left San Diego about 8 a. m., a half hour later crossed the border at San Ysidro, passed through Tijuana, followed the first road to the right until we came to a sign, "Alto adunca," and there a sentinel O. K.'d our car, then we proceeded. Nothing of interest here, almost barren hills with a scattering of *Rhus laurina* (Laurel Sumac) and *integifolia* (Sour Berry), *Heteromeles arbutifolai* (Christmas Berry) and *Nicotiana glauca* (Tree Tobacco). Then the vegetation became sparser and sparser until just dried wild oats and mustard lined the highway.

As we approached Rosa Rita Beach, the famous Table Mountain of Lower California showed up very plainly, but later in the day when we were on the opposite side of this range of mountains we could not locate it.

The road at times was near the coast so we could look out over the blue waters of the Pacific. The shore line is broken, rugged with lava formed draws which we could get a glimpse of the waves breaking on the shore. Patches of *Cereus emoryi* soon appeared; these are impenetrable masses of six feet or more across with numerous stiff branches a foot or two high covered with dense, spiny, yellowish thorns. A very short distance farther are acres of *Agave shawi* on both sides of the road, then acres of *Opuntia*, the jumping cholla. Now and then a *Yucca mohavensis* was seen.

Passing miles and miles of almost barren landscape, finally we came upon some sand dunes about a hundred feet in height; on the east slope were elder, *Rhus*, primroses and wild morning glory. After going a mile or two more we parked the car and sauntered down to the beach. Here were tons and tons of round rocks washing back and forth with the waves and making a loud swishing noise. The cliffs which form the background are composed of black volcanic rock.

We left the coast, climbing a winding grade. Upon reaching the top, we traveled along the ridge for several miles and then dropped back to the coast. As we were approaching a wide draw, we noticed thousands of large, white spots scattered over the rocky bluff. Upon closer examination they proved to be Dudleys ingens. Some were as large as dinner plates, powdery white in color. Several other species were found, a dwarf one, *D. orcutti*, and a handsome green type, *D. lurida*, the flower

stalks being four feet high. Two varieties we were unable to identify. We thought some of our friends might doubt our statement in regard so we took several pictures.

One canyon we ascended had deciduous trees growing along the hillsides. On these were small fruits which we thought were wild figs but upon closer view found they were buckeyes (*Aesculus californica*). We passed many other partly deciduous trees, dwarf ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*).

It was up again, then down again, passing large oaks, sycamores, and willows, while in side canyons manzanita and scrub oak greeted our eyes. Traveling back along the ocean, one saw on either side clumps of a weird cactus similar to *Machocereus eruca*. These were creeping along like numerous caterpillars worming their way over stones and brush.

After journeying onward a short distance, we came to where the road was blasted out of the cliff, with almost a 50-foot drop to the breakers, while on the opposite side of the road, the cliffs rose to approximately 100 feet, almost perpendicular. Then rounding a curve, we came in sight of that quaint little community of Ensenada, located serenely on Todos Santos Bay.

Bordering this village is a lovely sandy strand. We drove down this flat beach for five miles; it was like a speedway. After having our lunch and then seeing the town we observed by the town clock it was 1:20 p. m. so we started home.

Taking the inland route back, our first stop was a Russian village by the name of "Guadalupe." The main street was lined with beautiful Peruvian pepper trees (*Schinus molle*) and blue gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*). The houses bordering the thoroughfare on both sides were made of adobe brick, plastered and painted white. Everything was very clean and orderly about the place.

A short distance beyond the village we came to the ruins of Mission Guadalupe Fronteriza. All that interested us were three palms about 40 feet in height, two *Washingtonia filifera* and one *Phoenix canariensis*.

After going through a semi-arid strip, we followed a creek beneath large oaks, willows and sycamores. Then leaving these behind, we came to a place with hundreds of mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*). Some of the trees appeared as if they were two and a half feet in diameter.

Coming to a river, the road zigzagged back and forth, made us cross it 13 times, but the last time we were lucky, as the river bed was

dry. Nevertheless, we almost got stuck in the sand several times. Traveling through cottonwood thickets which brushed the car on each side, I thought if we ever met another car here one of us would surely have to take to the brush.

On one hill we passed by many Echino cactus. They were large globular plants growing singly and in groups but owing to our limited time we did not stop to examine them. The sky line above the distant mountains was pierced by straggling pines, Dewey said, "Pin-on," but they were too far off to argue about.

We were headed for Tecarta but as we were coming down a canyon toward La Posta, we stopped and spoke to a cowpuncher. He informed us the border closed there at 6 o'clock and it was after that hour then. We drove as fast as possible for we were anxious to get onto the main highway as the sombre shadows were creeping down into the canyon.

At 6:40 p. m. we crossed the San Diego & Arizona Railroad tracks and soon came on the main road. Here we saw a sign which read, "Tijuana 25½ miles." We had traveled about 10 miles along this road when the sun sank in a bank of fog over the Pacific. From then on it was too dark to see any of the landscape. Suddenly we were halted by a sentinel, then to Agua Caliente, Tijuana, stopping long enough at the border to have our car searched, then to San Diego.

Our trip to Ensenada and back was ended. We were tired and hungry but glad to have made the journey.

CHOICE FOLIAGE FOR DECORATIVE USE

Cocculus laurifolia is a shrub of symmetrical growth and beautiful decorative foliage and its keeping qualities in water are remarkable. It easily grows to be 6 to 7 feet tall and well branched and should be kept at about that height or less. Its foliage is so decorative and lasting that a frequent trimming is useful, as well as beneficial to plant.

Coprosma is another plant that stands a frequent pruning or heading in of its branches and the foliage is decorative, lasting well in water.

The foliage of the *Genista monosperma* is like long, gray threads and its foliage is very unique and decorative when used with light pink flowers or with blues or lavender shades and with naked stems such as the lavender *stutice* and pink and lavender *scabiosas*.

K. O. SESSIONS.

THE FRAGRANT PATH

Upon those rare occasions when I come across a fine bed of auriculas in an American garden, I am immediately transported by the scent to an old and walled English garden where as a child I wandered. If a chance wind brings the fragrance of petunias my way, a rather low scene is rehearsed in which I, intoxicated by the scent of petunias behind an English cottage fence, found vent for my emotions by kissing an unknown baby lying asleep in his pram in the street (little did I wot in those days of the germs that can lurk behind a wicked kiss).

It is of this magic of scent that Louise Beebe Wilder treats in her latest book, "The Fragrant Path" (Macmillan Company, price \$3.50). And she does not draw the line at pleasant perfumes—indeed she threatens, by the use of a quotation from Dan Mackenzie, to go further and give us "restrainedly, I promise you" a chapter on plants of Evil Odor. All of which she does.

The name of Louise Beebe Wilder is well known to western gardeners, even though her books treat mostly of her gardening experiences in the East. This book is one that will have a widespread appeal—one to interest any person with a sensitive nose and a penchant for fragrance in the garden.

This is no mere "garden book" junk—superficial garden information that can be gleaned from any catalogues. (We are too prone to think that all garden books must be practical volumes on modern garden culture.) This is a scholarly treatise on a much neglected horticultural subject. A meditative book—tasteful, quiet and satisfying—containing useful and legendary oddments on flowers with perfume. A book as appropriate to the library table as to the garden book-shelf. It has meant much research work and is probably the most exhaustive volume on the subject of flower scents that has been published. Mrs. Wilder has drawn fully on the poetry of scented flowers and as she writes she weaves into her lay, plant wisdom which pleases the gardener as much as her well-styled diction satisfies the lover of good literature.

There is a chapter on Spring Scents (Witch Hazel, Daphne, etc.)—of the fragrance of little bulbs—of *Iris reticulata* and the familiar *Iris unguicularis*—of tall bulbs and early flowering shrubs. (At this stage a lump will gather in the throat of one who has gardened in the East and has loved his garden, and he will be overwhelmed with nostalgia for the ecstatic joy

of an eastern spring.) There is a fat chapter on the scent of hardy shrubs and an important one on night-scented flowers.

There are entertaining incidents, pleasurable references and quotations unearthed from garden and flower books long forgotten but replete with the charm and poetry of flowers, and much plant lore is squeezed into the pages. Artemisias keep clothes free from moths, lavender is useful "o comfort and cleare the eyes" and when it becomes known that marigolds clear the brain there is certain to be a big run on those plants.

The chapter on fragrant annuals is especially interesting. There is a useful bibliography and many lists of plant names are given to help us clinch the scented ones. The flowers with faint fragrance are given as much importance as the heavily scented ones (which Mrs. Wilder calls "nose-twisters"—from the derivation of nasturtium).

It is gratifying to learn that through the efforts of Dr. Forman McLean of the New York Botanical Garden, Gladiolus tristis and other sweet-scented gladiolus species have been introduced to impart their fragrance to some gladiolus hybrids which Dr. McLean calls his Sweetglads.

Scents have always seemed to me to be particularly difficult to write down. Who can describe the smell that ascends from the floor of California after the first good rain? But Mrs. Wilder has mastered the technique and somehow manages to leave one knowing exactly what a certain scent IS like.

In "The Fragrant Path" she has broken the hard and fast mould which our "practical" garden books have for some years been building up and she points the way up other possible avenues, flowery yet aesthetically inviting —ways which impart the underlying essence and meaning of gardens.

LESTER ROWNTREE,
Carmel, California.

GARDENS IN AMERICA

By Marion Cran

(The Macmillan Co., 1932; \$3.00)

In this we had somehow anticipated a more consistently fine book. And were all its pages equal to the best among them, we could only praise, not criticize it. Quite frank in its lightness and impressionism, it gossips and babbles along, the human and personal side generally uppermost, and is very readable, yet taken as a whole it becomes a strange blending of the

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impermanent or superficial, pages of it at a time, with noble passages and chapters full of poetic feeling most beautifully expressed and often with a deep and understanding penetration. The word pictures drawn of New Orleans and Charleston are climacteric in the narrative and are very real and lovely. Chapters devoted to the woods and shores of Maine are likewise well and appreciatively done. A keenness of epigrammatic phrasing is frequently evident—"the joyous friendly blare of California,"—"New York has *tempo* but no rhythm,"—"the daffodil lights of the city lamps as they spring into sudden bloom at nightfall." Mrs. Cran found much to appreciate and admire in American horticulture and even in some of our American ways which at first must have seemed among the strangest to her. We must wish that speakeasies had not been dragged into a work of this sort as well as a few other things equally irrelevant which really are not a necessary part of America or even of our much bcaiviled prohibitory law, yet we must appreciate the author's ecstatic recognition of one of our gardens (Magnolia at Charleston) as the embodiment of her dreams, "the loveliest garden in all the world," and the generous enthusiasm in her acknowledgement that in both our irises and our peonies we "have quite beaten" the

mother-land. A goodly number of our local garden-folk come in for pleasing mention.

Too rapidly skimmed to be over-accurate in detail, really bad mistakes are not so very many. Californian geography occasionally twists a trifle askew. *Cristata* and *verna* are certainly not swamp irises. More irritating is the use of small initial letters in plant genera, probably the deed of editor rather than author, which is objectionable enough at best, but here is combined with an attempt to retain capitals in derivatives from proper names, and being inconsistently carried out, results in such confused usage as *Franklinia* and *gordonia* on the same page, *azalea* yet *Philadelphus*, rose *Hughonis*, *houstonia* *coerulea*, and so on.

S. S. B.

WESTERN AMERICAN ALPINES
By Ira N. Gabrielson

(The Macmillan Co., 1932; \$3.50)

The author of this enticing book has had a wide experience with the wild plants of the Pacific northwest, not only in searching them out in their natural retreats, but in growing them and photographing them. His notes are brief, and subsequent to the introductory chapters are offered for convenience of treatment in simple alphabetical sequence arranged according to genera, but they are informally and pleasantly written and therefore easy to read. An outstanding feature is the exceedingly well-executed and happily selected series of illustrations, all photographic, and in large part the work of the author. Some of these show the subjects in their native stations, others as specimens in the rock-garden, but nearly all succeed in portraying very completely the proper habit of the plants, which, needless to say, will be a boon to anyone attempting for the first time to grow them. Our one important criticism is epitomized in the title, which, short as it is, is nevertheless too broadly expressed at the start, too narrowly at the conclusion, to convey with due accuracy what the pages within contain. When the word "alpine" is stretched, as so many of our American writers attempt, to make a Procrustean bed for such utterly un-alpine plants as *Azalea occidentalis*, *Brodiaea capitata*, *Calochortus albus*, *Delphinium cardinale*, *Iris douglasiana*, and *Leucocrinum montanum*, it ceases to retain sufficient meaning to justify its use. In a minor way, we may, while we are at it, take exception likewise to the use of the common name "sage" as applied to the *Artemisias*, for both sage and sage-brush are genuinely in our flora, yet by no means the same.

S. S. B.

Gardeners in Southern California have for years cast an envious eye on the rock gardens of the Pacific Northwest. Some have seen them at the height of their glory, and thereby only aggravated the grievance. Nurserymen from Oregon and Washington have toured California, baiting us with glorious pictures and sending us irritating catalogs flaunting choice things we can't grow. And always there has been at the backs of our minds the desire for definite advice as to what will do with us and what won't.

In "Western American Alpines" (Macmillan, \$3.50) an authority has done some sifting for us. Sifting which makes it plain that many of the choicest natives of the Northwest are not for us, but which still leaves us hopeful for the success of others. The author, Ira N. Gabrielson, also points out that western America still contains native plants of definite garden value which are not yet in commerce. He describes them so that we may be on the lookout and have the discrimination to seize them when they first appear in the catalogs.

In spite of the title, the book is not limited to alpines but includes many a tall plant unfitted for the rock garden and some weedy ones which we should think twice about before admitting them to our precincts. Some are too inconspicuous and some too fussy to be welcomed as additions by the average gardener. But there are choice outstanding species of which it is well to remind the plantsmen and nurserymen.

For Southern California there are pentstemons, erigerons, eriophyllums and (for the careful gardener) lewisia. For the cool, foggy coastal districts of Central California there are delphiniums, dicentras, anemones, *Aquilegia jonesii* and *Douglasii laevigata* and the glorious *Cynoglossum grande*.

Mr. Gabrielson lays no claim to having covered the ground, but describes those plants

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which he has grown and a few others giving promise of garden usefulness. Californians will recognize some of their own native plants, which can of course be grown in their own vicinities.

The book contains a useful little map on "The Land of the Alpines" and a great many photographs to illustrate its floral inhabitants. In Chapter I there is a splendid bird's-eye view of the geographical contours and floral resources of this region.

The author gives us the truth about *Campanula piperi*, that charming little bluebell whose glamor was originally clouded by the inaccuracy of some of the Northwest nurserymen. Phloxes he treats very thoroughly and the violas he also takes rather hard. He is discouraging about *Ceanothus prostratus* and gives the many lovely pentstemons the full consideration which they deserve. It has always seemed to me that Southern California should be doing more with pentstemons. They do not take to the cool salt air of the Monterey Peninsula and the genus contains so many promising species, worthy of being featured in some section of California where the air is fairly dry and the sun shines for most of the summer.

In this matter of getting to know our native plants we are really inching along. America, so long asleep to the value of her native flora, is at last waking up. We are fortunate that one of the outstanding collectors of the Northwest has taken the trouble to gather together between the covers of a book, dependable and much needed information on that fascinating section of indigenous plants known as "rock plants." Mr. Gabrielson lacks the superlative gush which sometimes misleads the would-be grower. His honest representation of the plants cannot but inspire the confidence of even those of his readers who are unaware of his reputation and trustworthiness as a plantsman. Some of us have longed for just such a book as this and I for one am thankful to Ira N. Gabrielson and to the Macmillan Company.

LESTER ROWNTREE,
Carmel, California.

WALLS

Walls have several functions: to enclose an area, retain a bank, or separate one area from another. Far too many walls in Southern California are distinguished only by plainness and ugliness. Beauty in walls does not necessarily mean more expense in building, but it does mean careful design and planning.

Who is not familiar with the plain concrete

or ugly cobblestone retaining walls used so often to hold steep banks in front of homes in this region. A dry rock wall suitably planted with succulents, will certainly be more beautiful. If properly designed and constructed such a wall will be as strong as the plain wall.

For a low retaining wall up to three feet in height, an open rock wall with large spaces between the rocks and a decided slant back is very good. In a sunny exposure such a wall planted to a variety of mesembrianthemums is good. A dry wall if properly made can easily be built to a height of six feet and still have sufficient strength to retain a bank or terrace.

By a dry wall is meant one without any mortar binding. A wall of this type built rather close, that is without large spaces between rocks, can have any angle to the face up to perpendicular.

Such a wall planted to sempervivums, aeoniums, and echeverias of the hen and chicken type will have a charm and a character all its own.

For a low wall dividing two gardens or parts of a garden, a hollow rock wall is one of the best. This wall is really two walls with a space between for the soil. In a situation where one wall face has a sunny exposure and the other in the shade, the planting and the effect will be different on each side. The hollow wall is largely used in English gardens.

Not all walls will be made so that plants can grow in the crevices but that is no reason why they cannot have beauty. The southwest has a great variety of rocks and from this offering of nature it is easy to choose the rock with the proper color and texture to suit any environment.

WOOD FOR SMOKING PIPES

What American woods are the best substitutes for French briar in the manufacture of pipes is a question recently asked the Forest Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Two shrubs found in California, manzanita and wild lilac, have burls which, the Forest Products Laboratory believes, are a very fair substitute for French briar. Of the two, wild lilac appears to offer the greater commercial possibilities, owing to the larger size of its burls and their more frequent occurrence. Qualities sought for in woods for pipe bowls are high resistance to charring, freedom from warping and cracking, attractive figure, ability to take color and polish, and a "sweet" taste in continued use.

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